

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

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O 091555Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5202

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF COL. MORGAN'S ABDUCTION

1. SUMMARY. ALL PAPERS COVER AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN AND PRIMIN AND PRIMIN'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT RE MORGAN. "AL-NAHAR" STATES THAT POLICE RAIDS YESTERDAY RESULTED IN NO NEW LEADS. "AN-NAHAR" REPORTS RUMORS THAT MORGAN IS TO BE RELEASED AT ANY MOMENT, "AL-LIWA" REPORTS RUMORS THAT HE MAY BE OUT OF LEBANON, AND "DAILY STAR" RAISES POSSIBILITY OF NEW DEMANDS. "AS-SAFIR" STRESSES PREOCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN COMMAND WITH POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF AFFAIRS. "ASH-SHA'B" BANNERS REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY ARAFAT CONDEMNING MORGAN'S KIDNAPPING BUT ACCUSING AMEMBASSY OF HAVING BECOME CENTER FOR SABOTAGE."AN-NIDA" SPECULATES USG HAD MORGAN KIDNAPPED INTENTIONALLY IN ORDER TO BRING IN LARGE GROUP OF NEW AGENTS, WHILE "BEIRUT" BELIEVES MORGAN WAS HIMSELF CIA AGENT. ARAFAT'S ALLEGED REMARKS AND "AN-NIDA" COMMENT SEEM TO GROW OUT OF CONTINUING BELIEF THAT SPECIAL FEARY TASK FORCE IS OPERATING OUT OF

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT, AS AFP HAD ORIGINALLY AND

ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED. RUMOR IS SPREADING TODAY AMONG NEWSMEN THAT MORGAN HAD MADE PREVIOUS VISITS TO LEBANON. SINCE EMBASSY OF COURSE, HAS NO MEANS OF CONFIRMING OR DENYING THIS, EMBOFF DISCUSSED MATTER WITH LEBANESE SECURITY AUTHORITIES. THEY ARE NOW CHECKING THEIR FILES FOR RECORD OF ANY PREVIOUS ARRIVALS OR DEPARTURES. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN TAKLA AND PRIMIN KARAME WIDELY REPORTED IN BEIRUT PRESS TODAY. ALL PAPERS QUOTE KARAME AS RESPONDING TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS ABOUT MORGAN QUOTE WE ARE MAKING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT, AND WE STRONGLY HOPE TO ARRIVE AT POSITIVE RESULT SHORTLY UNQUOTE.

2. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" STATES: QUOTE JOINT PALESTINIAN-GOL ELEMENTS RAIDED SEVERAL PLACES IN MASLAKH QUARTER YESTERDAY WITHOUT FINDING ANYONE. INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES HAD HOPED TO FIND EVIDENCE LINKING NETWORK DISCOVERED DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY IN SANAYEH QUARTER WITH COLONEL'S ABDUCTION, BUT JUDICIAL SOURCES CONFIRM THAT INVESTIGATIONS HAVE TURNED UP NO CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THEM UNQUOTE.

3. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" REPORTS: QUOTE IT WAS RUMORED YESTERDAY NIGHT THAT COLONEL MORGAN WOULD BE RELEASED AT ANY MOMENT. BUT IN EARLY HOURS OF A.M. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HIS RELEASE HAD PERHAPS BEEN POSTPONED TO TODAY. UNQUOTE. MANAGING EDITOR OF "AN-NAHAR" HAS TOLD EMBASSY HE HEARD THIS RUMOR FROM QUOTE PALESTINIAN SOURCES UNQUOTE.

4. LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN "AL-LIWA" NOTES: QUOTE THERE ARE REPORTS THAT MORGAN IS NOW OUTSIDE LEBANON UNQUOTE.

5. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" REPORTS: QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST WORK ORGANIZATION... PLANS TO MAKE FURTHER DEMANDS OF AMERICANS, WELL-PLACED SOURCE TOLD DAILY STAR TUESDAY. NEW DEMANDS WILL CALL UPON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. EMBASSY HERE TO FURNISH QUANTITIES OF FOOD, CLOTHING, AND BUILDING MATERIALS FOR STRICKEN VILLAGES IN SOUTH LEBANON.... IT IS NOT RPT NOT KNOWN WHEN SECOND DEMAND WILL BE DELIVERED TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE UNQUOTE.

6. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" REPORTS: QUOTE RESISTANCE COMMAND CONTINUES TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF WHOLE AFFAIR. IT VIEWS SUBJECT AS A WHOLE AS PLOT MEANT TO HARM IT

AND, MORE PRECISELY, TO HARM LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS
UNQUOTE.

7. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B", REPORTING MEETING OF KAMAL JUMBLATT'S
QUOTE ARAB FRONT OF SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION UNQUOTE,
BANNERS QUOTE ARAFAT ACCUSES AMERICAN EMBASSY UNQUOTE AND WRITES:
QUOTE OUR REPORTER HAS LEARNED THAT MR. YASIR ARAFAT REVEALED TO
CONFEREES EXISTENCE OF CENTER FOR SABOTAGE IN AMERICAN EMBASSY
IN BEIRUT EMPLOYING TENS OF AGENTS AND SPIES. HE PROPOSED THAT
NEW STATEMENT BE ISSUED CONDEMNING KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN
COLONEL MORGAN, EMPHASIZING THAT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE HAD NO
CONNECTION WITH QUARTERS THAT HAD PERPETRATED KIDNAPPING....
ARAFAT SAID THAT RESISTANCE, IN CONDEMNING INCIDENT IN WHICH
AMERICAN COLONEL WAS INVOLVED, BELIEVES THAT KIDNAPPERS ARE
CARRYING OUT PLAN TO BRING HARM TO LEBANON AND TO PALESTINIAN
REVOLUTION. ARAFAT ENDED HIS REMARKS BY INSISTING ON NECESSITY
FOR CAUTION AND WATCHFULNESS TO FOIL THIS PLOT UNQUOTE.

8. PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST ORGAN "AN-NIDA"WRITES: QUOTE
THIS KIDNAPPING ISSUE HAS RAISED MANY QUESTIONS AND MORE THAN
ONE ACCUSATION RE POSITION OF AMERICA ITSELF ON THIS CASE,
ESPECIALLY AFTER WASHINGTON'S OBVIOUS EXTORTION...REACHED POINT
OF HOLDING SPECIAL MEETING BETWEEN FORD AND KISSINGER TO STUDY
SUBJECT AND SAY THAT ISSUE IS VERY DELICATE. THIS IS ABOVE AND
BEYOND ANNOUNCEMENT OFDISPATCH OF SPECIAL AMERICAN GROUP LED BY
ROBERT FEAREY TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO PURSUE CASE. ALL OF THIS
STRENGTHENS PREVAILING BELIEF THAT WASHINGTON DELIBERATELY SENT
MORGAN TO BE KIDNAPPED IN BEIRUT IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY TRANSFORMING
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT OPENLY AND LEGALLY INTO CENTER FOR ACTS OF TER-
RORISM AND SABOTAGE AGAINST PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND NATIONALIST
MOVEMENT UNQUOTE.

9. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" EDITORIALIZES: QUOTE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY
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AMERICAN COLONEL MORGAN...CANNOT BE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER BECAUSE
HE IS BLACK, AND BLACKS AS A GROUP ARE NOT TRUSTED TO THIS EXTENT
BY AMERICAN REGIME.... BUT CIA DOES... RELY TO LARGE EXTENT ON
ELEMENTS FROM OPPRESSED GROUPS, ESPECIALLY BLACKS.... SINCE
LEBANON HAS RECENTLY BECOME MAJOR HOT SPOT, IT IS NATURAL THAT
THERE WOULD BE CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN AMERICAN AND ISRAELI
INTELLIGENCE... WHICH HAVE SAME PLAN FOR LEBANON -- TO STRIKE
PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND CREATE DIVISION BETWEEN
LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES. CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH BLACK
AMERICAN OFFICER MORGAN WAS ARRESTED, AS WELL AS INTEREST
AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CIRCLES ARE SHOWING IN HIS KIDNAPPING,
INDICATE THAT MORGAN WAS NOT IN LEBANON BY ACCIDENT UNQUOTE.
GODLEY

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